

R E M A R K S

Claims 3 and 18 currently remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4-17, 19 and 20 are canceled. Both claims 3 and 18 are herein amended.

Claims 3 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Fukuda in view of Ball. In relying upon Fukuda for rejecting claims 3 and 18, the Examiner cites the statement in Fukuda that different combinations of motion-communicating and torque-communicating means can be substituted. Although Fukuda describes its turnbuckle 46 and the screw 59 as being in a motion communicating relationship with a servo motor such that three belts will move radially at the same speed (column 8, lines 1-7), it should be noted that it would not be easy to move these three belts at the same rate if the screw 59 were replaced by an air cylinder. In other words, it cannot be concluded that the statement in Fukuda cited above by the Examiner implies that the present invention is obviously achieved by replacing Fukuda's screw 59 by an air cylinder.

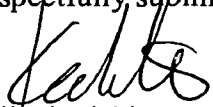
Fukuda's screw 59 and motor 45 may be regarded as corresponding to the screw 74 and the motor 73 of the present invention. The screw 74, the motor 73 and the air cylinder 71 are parts of a prior art technology. The present invention is based on this prior art technology by additionally employing the pressure-adjusting air cylinder 66. In other words, the present invention cannot be obtained by replacing Fukuda's screw 59 by an air cylinder.

In order to make this point clearer, claims 3 and 18 are herein amended to further include the motor 73 as characterized in page 9 at line 10 as being for the purpose of moving the heater unit between a working area and a non-working area (as defined in page 9, lines 3-10 of the specification). Since there is a screw 74 driven by this motor 73, this cannot be replaced by an air cylinder, as suggested by the Examiner.

In other words, the amendment effected herein is supported by the specification and hence is enterable. Furthermore, it is believed to make it clearer that Fukuda cannot predicate rejection of these claims. Ball was cited merely for showing an arm that can be moved by various means such as an air cylinder or a motor.

In summary, it is believed that the present Amendment is responsive to the Office Action and the application is now in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keiichi Nishimura', written over the typed name.

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